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Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katja **Pehrman** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th, 25th, 29th, 31st and 32nd meetings, on 18 October, 21 November and 12 and 16 December 2005. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/60/SR.7, 25, 29, 31 and 32).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Funds for International Partnerships (A/60/327);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the suspension of recruitment for posts in the General Service and related categories (A/60/363);

(d) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.2);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/60/366);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/60/7 and Corr.1).

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(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account (A/59/397);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/60/425);

(h) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (A/60/7/Add.10).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.9

4. At its 29th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Office in Timor-Leste" (A/C.5/60/L.9), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Jordan.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.9 without a vote (see para. 14).

B. Draft decision orally proposed by the Chairman

6. At its 29th meeting, on 12 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted a draft decision on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (see para. 15 draft decision I).

C. Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.10

7. At the 32nd meeting, on 16 December, the representative of Jamaica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft decision entitled "Provision of conference services" (A/C.5/60/L.10) and orally revised it by inserting the words "the informal consultations of" before the words "the Fifth Committee".

8. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of the Committee to rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Chief of the Common Services Unit, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, orally reported to the Committee on expenditures relating to the draft decision as orally revised. The Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions orally introduced the related report of that Committee (see A/C.5/60/SR.32).

9. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Jamaica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) requested a waiver of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

10. At the 32nd meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), objected to the request for a waiver of rule 120 of the rules of procedure.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee voted to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure by a recorded vote of 80 to 34, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Monaco, Russian Federation.

12. Also at the 32nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/60/L.10, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 81 to 34 (see para. 15, draft decision II). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar,

[2] The delegation of Botswana subsequently indicated that his delegation had inadvertently pushed the voting button of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[3] The delegations of Indonesia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela subsequently indicated that they had intended to vote in favour.

Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

13. At the same meeting, after the adoption of the draft decision as orally revised, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Russian Federation, Jamaica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Australia, Japan, South Africa, Cuba and Egypt (see A/C.5/60/SR.32).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

14. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Office in Timor-Leste

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in its report, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Decides* to approve the position of Chief of Staff at the D-1 level;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure appropriate coordination of gender mainstreaming activities;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to achieve savings on operational costs taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee;

6. *Approves* the budget for the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste in the amount of 21,939,900 United States dollars net (23,782,100 dollars gross) for the period from 21 May to 31 December 2005;

7. *Notes* that requirements for the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste, after taking into account the utilization of savings of 6,301,700 dollars under the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan, amount to 15,638,200 dollars (17,480,400 dollars gross);

8. *Decides* to appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, an amount of 15,638,200 dollars under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2004-2005, for the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste;

9. *Also decides* to appropriate an amount of 1,842,200 dollars under section 34, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

[1] A/60/425.
[2] A/60/7/Add.10.

15. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships.[1]

Draft decision II
Provision of conference services

The General Assembly decides to provide full conference services to the informal consultations of the Fifth Committee beyond 6 p.m. and on weekends until the end of the main part of its sixtieth session and to report on any expenditure in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

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[1] A/60/327.